

REMARKSI. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated January 14, 2004, claims 8-11 and 46-49 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 12, 15, 19, 28, 30, 39, 50, 51, and 53 have been amended. Claims 1-7, 12-45, and 50-56 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph (9), the Office Action indicates that the subject matter of claims 5, 11-16, 43, and 49-54 would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite the features of allowable claim 11 (and incorporating features recited in claims 8-10 as well). The Applicant has also amended claim 39 to recite the features of allowable claim 49 (and incorporating features recited in claims 46-48 as well). Claims have also been amended to consistently recite a "gaming device."

III. Claim Amendments

Applicant's attorney has made amendments to the claims as indicated above in order to expedite the allowance of the application, and with the intention of pursuing further patent protection in continuation patent applications.

IV. Office Action Objections

In paragraph 1, the Office Action objects to the Abstract. A proposed substitute Abstract excluding legal phraseology is attached.

In Paragraph 2, the Office Action objects to the specification, since it recites "FIG. 3" instead of "FIG. 3A to FIG. 3C." The Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting this error, which has been corrected according to the Examiner's recommendations.

In paragraph 3, the Office Action objects to claim 28, as the Examiner could not tell if claim 28 was to depend upon claim 1 or claim 19. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting this error. Claim 28 has been amended to depend upon claim 19.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

GATES & COOPER LLP  
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

Howard Hughes Center  
6701 Center Drive West, Suite 1050  
Los Angeles, California 90045  
(310) 641-8797

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By: Victor G. Cooper  
Name: Victor G. Cooper  
Reg. No.: 39,641

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